GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3830
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2003
ONGC TENDER FOR DEEP WATER RIGS
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has advertised a Rs. 5000 crore tender for two deep-water rigs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the life span of these two rigs;

(d) whether such rigs could be hired;

(e) whether the Government propose to review the need to buy such expensive deep-water drilling rigs; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SMT. SUMITRA MAHAJAN)

(a) to (d): The deepwater exploration programme of Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) for the Tenth Five Year Plan, inter-alia, envisages drilling of 47 wells, some of which may be drilled in water depth upto 3000 meters. Accordingly, based on an international tender, ONGC have placed orders for hiring for three years each, of `Discoverer Seven Seas` rig of M/s Transocean Offshore Deep Water Drilling Inc., for drilling upto water depth of 1800 meters and for rig `Belford Dolphin` of M/s Dolphin Drilling Ltd. for drilling upto water depth of 3000 meters. The estimated value of tender was Rs 4,177 crores.

(e) to (f): ONGC has intimated that any acquisition of deep water drilling rigs by it would depend upon the success of exploratory efforts and subsequent development plans.